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Region 5

Hot Topics

Ill. Gov. Rauner Calls for Sterigenics Willowbrook Facility Closure

Key Message: Illinois Governor Rauner calls for the shutdown of the Sterigenics Willowbrook Facility and makes a referral to the Illinois Attorney General. EPA has posted the Sterigenics website that includes the air sampling data and ATSDR's analysis.

This spring, Region 5 monitoring detected elevated levels of ethylene oxide near the Sterigenics facility in the community. A report published by ATSDR shows an elevated cancer risk exists for residents and off-site workers, assuming chronic exposure. Region 5 is working with Illinois EPA and Sterigenics to reduce emissions of ethylene oxide from the company's facility. In July, the company installed additional pollution controls to capture ethylene oxide emissions. The Region continues to work cooperatively with the Illinois EPA, local officials and the company.

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